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- (54) TITLE OF THE INVENTION
 PLANE-FORM ILLUMINATION INSTRUMENT
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[Note: All names, addresses, company names, and brand names are translated in the most common manner. Japanese language does not have singular or plural words unless otherwise specified with numeral prefix or general form of plurality suffix. Translator's note]

SPECIFICATION

1. TITLE OF THE INVENTION Plane-form illumination instrument

2. CLAIMS

(1) A plane-form illumination instrument is characterized by the fact that is equipped with a lamp that becomes a light source; and a light guide that is formed of a transparent material in a plate form, and radiated lights of the lamp are introduced from a plane other than front/back, and one plane of front/back becomes light discharging plane [note: the original document literally states light guide exit plane, and it is translated as light discharging plane hereafter, translator's note, and at the same time, the plane that is at opposite side to the light discharging plane becomes light diffusion plane; and a diffusion plate that is placed as a contraposition to the light discharging plane of the light guide and carries out diffusion reflection and diffusion transmission; and a reflective plane that is arranged opposite to the light diffusion plane of the light guide; and the light discharging plane of the light guide is formed smoothly and is set to totally reflect all luminous flux of the radiated lights of lights that is not reflected at the light diffusion plane; and multiple numbers of reflective parts that conduct diffusion reflection are formed on the light diffusion plane; and it is set so the distribution density of reflective parts to become large as the distance from the lamp becomes further away; and above-explained reflective plane is set to reflect luminous flux that pass through the transmitting part among reflective parts formed on the light diffusion plane of the light guide.

3. DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THIS INVENTION [TECHNICAL FIELDS]

This invention relates to a plane-form illumination instrument that is used as a back light and the like of light panel or liquid crystal display device of which light emitting plane is required to show an almost uniform luminance.

[BACKGROUND TECHNOLOGIES]

According to this type of plane-form illumination instrument, it generally has a light guide of plate form, and radiated lights of a lamp are guided from the plane other than front/back of the light guide to be taken out from a light discharging plane that is one plane of either front or back plane. However, when lamp and light guide are combined simply, the luminance at nearby lamp remains the highest, and luminance declines quickly as it moves away from the lamp; and therefore, it presents a problem of not possible to obtain a uniform luminance on a light discharging plane. And therefore, following two countermeasures have been proposed generally as methods of dealing with this problem:

That is to say, the first countermeasure is to place a filter (7) at contraposition to the light discharging plane (21) as illustrated in the Figure 6 (a). This filter (7) is set to reduce transmissivity (dotted line) as distance to the lamp (1) is closer as illustrated in the Figure 6 (b), and it is designed to provide overall uniform luminance rather than reducing transmissivity at the portion with higher luminance (solid line). However, according to this countermeasure, because uniformity of luminance is attempted by reduction of lights at the portion showing a high luminance, problem of low utilization efficiency of the radiated lights of the lamp (1) occurs.

And therefore, the second countermeasure that is illustrated in the Figure 7 (a) is designed to vary diffusion reflectivity on the light diffusion plane that is the plane opposite side to the light discharging plane (21) of the light guide (2) by locations. That is to say, at the portion that is near the lamp (1), diffusion reflectivity is set to be small, and diffusion reflectivity to be large as it further parts from the lamp (1). specifically, multiple numbers of reflective parts (23) (diagonal line parts in the Figure 7 (a)) of dot form are formed on the light diffusion plane of the light guide (2), and as illustrated in the Figure 7 (b), it is designed so the distribution density of the reflective parts (23) becomes higher as it moves away from the lamp (1); and the portion without reflective parts (23) may be subjected to an absorption treatment by forming a concave/convex plane or by coating a material with different refractive index. According to this structure, when distance from the lamp (1) happens to become about 5 times of the plate thickness of the light guide (2), difference in distribution density at the reflective parts (23) of the portion that is nearby lamp (1) and away from the lamp (1) becomes large, and presents a problem of occurrence of uneven luminance by the reflective parts (23); and as a wide gap among reflective parts (23) occurs at nearby lamp, portions showing high luminance would appear in a shape of a star. This phenomenon is more prominent when the plate thickness of the light guide (2) is smaller.

[PURPOSE OF THIS INVENTION]

This invention was conducted based on above-explained points, and its purpose is to offer a plane-form illumination instrument of which luminance on a light emitting plane is sufficiently made as uniform.

[DISCLOSURE OF THIS INVENTION] (CONSTITUTION)

The plane-form illumination instrument that relates to this invention is equipped with a lamp that becomes a light source; and a light guide that is formed in a plate-form of a transparent material, and radiated lights of the lamp are introduced from a plane other than the front/back, and one plane of either front/back becomes a light discharging plane, and at the same time, plane that is opposite side to the light discharging plane becomes light diffusion plane; and a diffusion plate that is placed at contraposition to the light discharging plane of the light guide and carries out diffusion reflection and diffusion transmission; and a reflective plane that is placed at opposite to the light diffusion plane of the light guide; and the light discharging plane of light guide is formed smoothly and is set to totally reflect all luminous flux of radiated lights of the lamp that is not reflected at light diffusion plane; and on the light diffusion plane, multiple numbers of reflective parts that carries out diffusion reflection are formed; and distribution density at the reflective part is set to be larger as the distance from the lamp becomes greater; and aboveexplained reflective plane is set to reflect luminous flux that pass through the transmitting part between reflective parts formed on the light diffusion plane of the light guide to attempt uniformity of the luminance on the light emitting plane by utilizing reflection and diffusion, and at the same time, to enhance utilization efficiency of radiated lights of the lamp by not using means of reducing lights.

(EXAMPLE 1)

As illustrated in the Figure 1, a lamp (1) that becomes a light source and linear-form light guide (2) are contained within a box (10). Regarding the lamp (1), a straight tubular-form fluorescent lamp is used; and it is arranged opposite to one side plane of the light guide (2). The light guide (2) is formed of a transparent material such as glass or acryl and the like; and one plane of front/back (top plane shown in the Figure 1 (b)) becomes light discharging plane (21) while the other plane becomes light diffusion plane (22). The light discharging plane (21) is of a smooth convex curved plane; and it is set so the distance with the light diffusion plane (22) becomes the greatest at its middle part, and distance with the light diffusion plane (22) would be the minimum at the position that is furthest away from the lamp (1). On the one hand, the light diffusion plane (22) has multiple numbers of reflective parts (23) that are almost in parallel to the longitudinal direction of the lamp (1) as illustrated with a dashed line part in the Figure 2; and each reflective parts (23) are formed as closely adhered to the light diffusion plane (22) to carry out diffusion reflection through printing and the like. In addition, a plane-form transmitting part (24) is formed between adjacent reflective parts (23). At this time, reflective part (23) is formed so the width would be narrower as it is closer to the lamp (1) and width of the transmitting part (24) is wider,

The positional relationship of the lamp (1) and the light guide (2) is set in such manner so, of the radiated lights of lamp (1), the luminous flux that is introduced to the light guide (2) and is not reflected at the light diffusion plane (22) is all and totally reflected; and it is designed that the radiated lights from the lamp (1) cannot be taken out from the light discharging plane (21) unless otherwise are reflected at the light diffusion plane (22) for at the least 1 time.

At the position that is a one plane of the box (10) and is opposite to the light discharging plane (21) of the light guide (2), a diffusion plate (3) that carries out diffusion transmission and diffusion reflection is arranged; and on the one hand, the plane that is the inner circumference plane of the box (10) and is opposite to the light diffusion plane (22) becomes reflective plane (4). Although diffusion plate (3) is arranged as spaced from the light guide (2), it may be also arranged in closely adhered manner. The reflective plane (4) is a positive [correct or actual] reflective plane of metal plane, or diffusion reflective plane by coating and the like; and of the light diffusion plane (22) of the light guide (2), it is designed to reflect luminous flux that pass through the transmitting part (24).

Based on above-explained structure, part of the luminous flux that is radiated from the lamp (1) is totally reflected at the light discharging plane (21) and is guided to the region that is away from the lamp (1); and in addition, because distribution density of transmitting part (24) is high on the light diffusion plane (22) at nearby lamp (1), radiated lights from the lamp (1) are guided to the region away from the lamp (1) including total reflection at this transmitting part (24). On the one hand, because distribution density of reflective parts (23) on the light diffusion plane (22) is small at nearby lamp (1), diffusion reflection becomes fairly small; and as a result, quantity of light that is taken out of the light discharging plane (21) is made as almost uniform. At this time, if diffusion plate (3) and reflective plane (4) are not present, as illustrated in the Figure 3 (a), it would be the equal structure as that of the second countermeasure shown in the background technology column; and as illustrated in the Figure 3 (b), region that corresponds to the reflective parts (23) of the light diffusion plane (22) shows high luminance and region that corresponds with the transmitting part (24) shows low luminance to cause uneven luminance; however, in actual sense, part of luminous flux is diffusion reflected by the diffusion plate (3) to show a luminance distribution as illustrated in the Figure 3 (a); and furthermore, of the reflected lights, the luminous flux that is reflected to enter with incidental angle that is smaller than critical angle against transmitting part (24) of the light diffusion plane (22)of the light guide (2) is reflected at the reflective plane (4) by passing through light guide (2); and therefore, luminance at this portion becomes high. As a result, at the region that corresponds to the transmitting part (24), difference in luminance with reflective parts (23) is relaxed by the reflection at diffusion plate (3) and reflective plane (4). Furthermore, at the end, lights that transmit through the diffusion plate (3) are taken outside of the box (10); and as illustrated in the Figure 3 (d), luminance distribution becomes uniform.

As explained above, it shows a beneficial point of possible reduction in thickness without having to form a fine pattern of reflective parts (23) showing high uniformity effect of luminance without making the pattern of reflective parts (23) noticeable even when it is made as a thin type because it is possible to relax uneven luminance caused by the presence of reflective parts (23) and transmitting part (24) through setting the overall luminance distribution as uniform roughly by varying the distribution density of reflective parts (23) that is formed on the light guide (2), and at same time, by sandwiching the light guide (2) between diffusion plate (3) and reflective plane (4). In addition, as light reduction filter is not used, it shows a beneficial point of high utilization efficiency of radiated lights of the lamp (1). Furthermore, it shows a beneficial point of high luminance uniformity effect as well as high efficiency because luminance uniformity is planned in 3 stages of reflective parts (23) that carries out diffusion reflection, reflective plane (4) that corresponds with transmitting part (24), and diffusion plate (3).

Based on above-explained structure, when luminance at nearby lamp (1) becomes high through direct entrance of the lights from the lamp (1) to the diffusion plate (3), light blocking plate (5) may be arranged at appropriate location as illustrated in the Figure 1 (b).

(EXAMPLE 2)

This example shows lamp (1) being a dot light source such as an incandescent light and the like; and it has light emitting plane of a circular shape centered at the lamp (1). That is to say, the light guide (2) is arranged at the surrounding centering the lamp (1); and the pattern of reflective parts (23) on the light diffusion plane (22) is concentric as illustrated with diagonal lines in the Figure 4(b). In addition, as lamp (1) is positioned at the center of light emission plane, luminance uniformity is planned either by arrangement of a light blocking plate (6) at the region that corresponds with the lamp (1) so not to utilize transmitted lights of this region, or by arrangement of a member showing diffusion reflection and diffusion transmission that are characteristically different from those of diffusion plate (3) at this region. As other components are the same as those of the example1, further explanation is omitted.

(EXAMPLE 3)

This example shows arrangement of two lamps (1) in right/left symmetrical manner by combining the structure described in the example 1. That is to say, according to this structure, it is possible to obtain a plane-form illumination instrument having light emission plane of two times larger area at the same luminance of that of the example 1. Regarding other components, further explanation is omitted as they are the same as those of the example 1.

[EFFCTS OF THIS INVENTION]

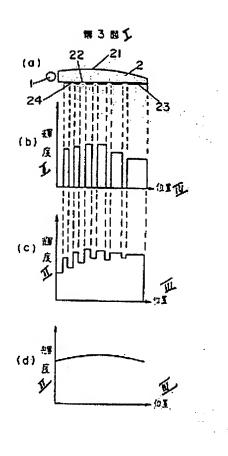
As explained above, this invention is equipped with a lamp that becomes a light source, a light guide that formed of a transparent material in a plate-form and radiated lights from the lamp are introduced from the plane other than front/back and one plane of front/back is designed to form a light discharging plane, and at the same time, the plane that is opposite side to the light discharging plane serves as a light diffusion plane, and a reflective plane that is arranged at contraposition to the light diffusion plane of the light guide; and the light discharging plane of the light guide is formed smoothly to set all luminance flux of the radiated lights of the lamp that is not reflected at the light diffusion plane to be totally reflected; and light diffusion plane is formed of multiple numbers of reflective parts that conduct diffusion reflection and is set so the distribution density of reflective parts becomes large as the distance from the lamp becomes further away; and above-explained reflective plane is set to reflect luminance flux that passes through transmitting part among reflective parts that are formed on the light diffusion plane of the light guide; and reflective parts and transmitting part are appropriately formed on the light diffusion plane of the light guide, and at the same time, by sandwiching the light guide between diffusion plate and reflective plane to repeat reflection and diffusion to show a beneficial point that it is possible to set the luminance on the light emission plane as uniform. In addition, as luminance uniformity is conducted through reflection and diffusion without using means of light reduction, it shows a beneficial point of high utilization efficiency of the radiated lights of lamp.

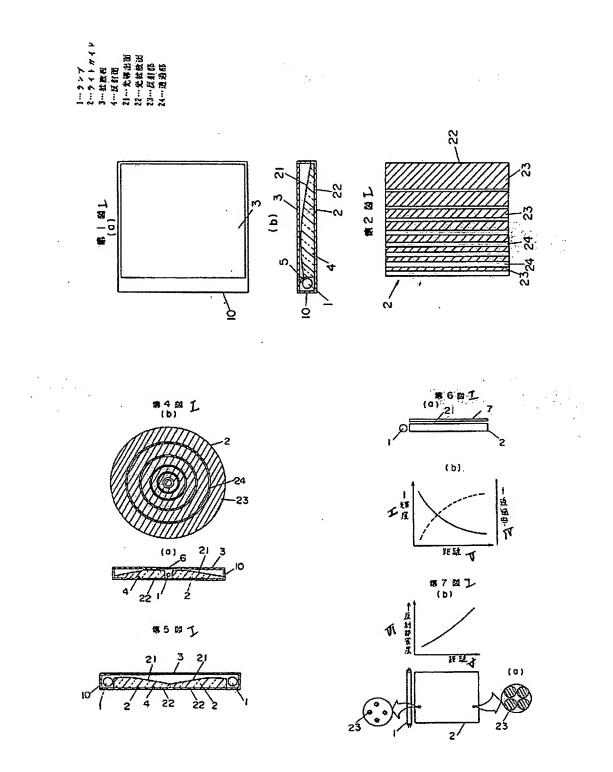
4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figures 1 (a), (b) each illustrate plane view and cross-sectional view of the example 1 of this invention respectively; and Figure 2 illustrates a plane view that shows pattern of reflective part that is formed on the light diffusion plane of the same as explained above; and Figure 3 illustrates an explanatory view of operation of the same; and Figures 4 (a), (b) each illustrate cross sectional-view of the example 2 of this invention and a plane view that shows pattern of reflective part formed on the light diffusion plane respectively; and Figure 5 illustrates a cross-sectional view that shows example 3 of this invention; and Figures 6 (a), (b) each illustrate schematic structural view and explanatory view of operation of the conventional example respectively; and Figures 7 (a), (b) each illustrate schematic structural view and explanatory view that shows distribution density of reflective part of other conventional example respectively.

(1) shows a lamp, (2) shows a light guide, (3) shows a diffusion plate, (4) shows a reflective plane, (21) shows a light discharging plane, (22) shows a light diffusion plane, (23) shows a reflective part, and (24) shows a transmitting part.

[I: Figure, II: luminance, III: position, IV: transmissivity, V: distance, VI: density of reflective part,





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図発明の名称 面状照明器具

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頣 昭62(1987)8月13日 ❷出

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1. 強明の名称

面状照明器具

2. 特許請求の範囲

(1) 光源となるランプと、透明材料により板状 に形成され表裏以外の面からランプの放射光が導 入され表裏の一面が光導出面となるとともに光導 出面の反対側面が光拡散面となったライトガイド と、ライトガイドの光導出面に対反され拡散反射 および拡散透過を行なう拡散板と、ライトガイド の光拡散面に対数された反射面とを備え、ライト ガイドの光導出面は、滑らかに形成されてランプ の放射光のうち光拡散面で反射されていない光束 のすべてを全反射するように設定され、光拡放面 は、拡放反射を行なう多数の反射部が形成され、 ランプからの距離が遠くなるほど反射部の分布密 皮が大きく設定され、上記反射面はライトガイド の光技性面に形成された反射部間の透過部を透過 する光束を反射するように設定されて成ることを 特徴とする面状肌明器具。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

[技術分野]

本発明は、ライトパネルや液晶表示装置のパッ クライト等に用いられ、充光面で略均一な郷皮が 要求される面状照明器具に関するものである。

[背景技術]

一般に、この種の面状照明器具では、板状のラ イトガイドを有し、ライトガイドの表裏以外の面 からランプの放射光を導入し、これを表裏の一面 である光導出面から取り出すようにしている。し かしながら、単にランプとライトガイドとを組み 合わせただけでは、ランプの近傍において郷皮が もっとも高く、ランプから離れると輝度が急速に 低下するものであるから、光帯出面で均一な郷皮 を得ることができないという問題が生じる。そこ で、従来よりこの問題への対処法として次の2つ の対策が提案されている。

ナなわち、第1の対策としては、第6図(a)に 示すように、光導出面21にフィルタフを対阻す ることが提案されている。このフィルタ7は、第 6 図(b)に示すように、ランプ1との距離が近いほど透過車(破録)が低下するように改定されており、厚皮(実録)の高い部分ほど透過車を低下させることにより、全体として均一な厚皮を得ようとするものである。しかしながら、この対策法では、厚皮の高い部分を試光することにより、厚皮の均一化を図っているものであるから、ランプ1の放射光の利用効率が低いという問題が生じる。

そこで、第2の対策としては、第7図(a)に示すように、ライトがイド2の光導出面21とは短対解の面である光拡放面における拡放反射率ならが高によって変えるようにしたもので射率が小ででは、ランブ1に近い部分では拡放反射率が小で反射でした。ランブ1から離れるほどが放けによるようにしたものでは、ライトがイド2の光拡放面に点状の反射部23(第7図(a)中斜線部)を多数形成し、第7図(b)に示すように、ランブ1から離れるほど反射部23の分布密度が高くない部分は凹凸面としたり、原

導出面となるとともに光導出面の反対側面が光拡 放面となったライトガイドと、ライトガイドの光 導出面に対低され拡散反射および拡散透過を行な う拡散板と、ライトガイドの光拡散御に対設され た反射面とを備え、ライトガイドの光導出面は、 滑らかに形成されてランプの放射光のうち光拡散 面で反射されていない光束のすべてを全反射する ように設定され、光拡散面は、拡散反射を行なう 多数の反射部が形成され、ランプからの距離が速 くなるほど反射部の分布密度が大きく設定され、 上記反射面はライトかイドの光拡散面に形成され た反射部間の透過部を透過する光束を反射するよ うに設定されて成るものであり、反射と拡散とを 利用して、発光面での輝度の均一化を図るととも に、減光する手段を用いないようにして、ランプ の放射光の利用効率を高めたものである。

(実施例1)

第1 図に示すように、箱休10内に、光源となるランプ1と、板状のライトガイド2とが納扱される。ランプ1としては、直管状蛍光ランプが用

新事の異なる材料をコーティングすることにより、 吸収性の処理を適している。この構成では、ランプ 1 からの距離がライトガイド 2 の板序の 5 倍程 皮になると、ランプ 1 の近傍とランプ 1 から離れ た部分とでの反射部 2 3 の分布密度の差が大きく なり、反射部 2 3 による輝度むらが生じるという 四週が生じ、ランプ近傍では反射部 2 3 間に広い 隙間ができることになるから、輝度の高い部分が 星状に出現することになる。この現象はライトが イド 2 の板厚が小さいほど顕著になる。

【発明の目的】

本発明は上述の点に鑑みて為されたものであって、その目的とするところは、 発光面の輝度が十分に均一化された面状照明器具を提供することにある。

[発明の開示]

(構成)

本売明に係る面状照明器具は、光源となるランプと、透明材料により板状に形成され表裏以外の面からランプの放射光が導入され表裏の一面が光

いられており、ライトかイド2の一側面に対向し て配設されている。ライトガイドでは、ガラスや アクリル等の透明材料により形成されており、表 裏の一面(第1図(b)の上面)が光導出面21、他 面が光拡散面22となっている。光導出面21は、 滑らかな凸曲面であって、中間部において光拡放 国22との距離が殺大となり、ランプ1からもっ とも離れた位置では光拡散面22との距離が最小 となるように設定されている。一方、光拡放面2 2は、第2図に斜線部で示すように、ランプ1の 長手方向に略平行な多数の反射部23を有してお り、各反射部23は、印刷等により拡散反射を行 なうように光拡散面22に密着形成されている。 また、隣接する反射部23間は平面状の透過部2 4となっている。ここで、反射部23は、ランプ 1に近いほど幅が狭く、また透過部24の幅が広 くなるように形成されている。

ランプ 1 とライトガイド 2 との位置関係は、ランプ 1 の放射光のうちライトガイド 2 に導入されて光拡散面 2 2 で反射されていない光束がすべて

全反射されるように設定されているのであって、 ランプ 1 からの放射光は少なくとも 1 回は光拡放 面 2 2 で反射されない限り、光導出面 2 1 から外 に取り出せないようになっている。

箱体10の一面であって、ライトガイド2の光 専出面21に対向する位置には、拡放透過および 拡放反射を行なう拡放板3が配数されており、一 方、箱体10の内周面であって光拡散板3は、 ライトガイド2と離間して配置しているが、密着 配置してもよい。反射面4は、金属面である正反 射面、6しくは塗装等による拡散反射面であって、 ライトガイド2の光拡散面22のうち透過部24 を透過する光束を反射するようになっている。

以上の構成により、ランプ 1 から放射された光 東は、一部が光導出面 2 1 で全反射されてランプ 1 から離れた部位まで案内されるのであり、また、 ランプ 1 の近傍では光拡飲面 2 2 における透過部 2 4 の分布密度が高いから、この透過部 2 4 で全 反射されることによっても、ランプ 1 の放射光が

面もとでの反射により、反射部23との輝度差が 観和されるのである。さらに、最終的には、拡散 板3を透過して光が箱体10の外部に取り出され ることになるから、第3図(d)に示すように、輝 度分布が均一化されるのである。

ランプ1から離れた部位まで米内されることにな る。一方、ランプ1の近傍では光拡放面22にお ける反射部で3の分布密度が小さいから、拡依反 射は比較的少なくなるのであり、その結果、光導 出面21から取り出される光量はほぼ均一化され ることになる。ここで、もし拡散板3と反射面4 とが存在しなければ、第3図(a)に示すように、 背景技術の項で示した第2の対策法と同等の構成 となって、第3図(b)に示すように、光拡放面2 2の反射部23に対応する部位は郷皮が高くなり、 透過部24に対応する部位は煤度が低くなって、 輝度ならが生じることになるが、実際には拡散板 3によって一部の光束が拡散反射されて第3図(c) に示すような興度分布となり、さらにその反射光 のうちでライトガイドでの光拡散面ででの透過部 24に対して臨界角よりも小さい入射角で入射す るように反射された光束は、ライトかイド2を透 通して反射面4で反射されることになり、したかっ て、この部分での郵度が高まることになる。結局、 透過部24に対応する部位では、拡散板3と反射

得られるという利点を有する。

以上の構成において、ランプ 1 からの直接光が 拡散板 3 に入射することにより、ランプ 1 の近傍 での輝度が高くなる場合には、第 1 図(b)に示し ているように、透光板 5 を通所に配置しておけば よい。

(災施例2)

本実施例では、第4図に示すように、ランプ1から無灯等の点光波であって、ランプ1を中心とする円形の発光面を有するものである。すなわち、ランプ1を中心として周囲にライトがイド2を配設しているのであり、光並散面22における反射部23のパターンは、第4図(b)に斜線で示すように、同心円となっているものであるけて、ランプ1が発光での中心に位置しているものであるけてこのがは、カーに対応するに対なる特性の拡散を利用しないようにするか、もして対応であるが、もしては立めています。では、1、0の確定に対数を配数することにより、呼吸の対応を図るようにする。他の確定は実施例1と

同等であるから説明を省略する。

(実施例3)

本実施例では、タンプ1を2 例及けたものであって、実施例1の構成を組み合わせて左右対称としたものである。すなわち、この構成によれば、実施例1と同じ輝度で2 倍の面積の発光面を持つ面状照明器具を得ることができるのである。他の構成については実施例1と同等であるから説明を省略する。

[発明の効果]

の実施例3を示す断面図、第6図(a)(b)はそれぞれ従来例を示す概略構成図と動作説明図、第7図(a)(b)はそれぞれ他の従来例を示す概略構成図と反射部の分布密度を示す説明図である。

1 は ランプ、 2 は ライト かイド、 3 は 拡 放 板、 4 は 反射 面、 2 1 は 光 導 出 面、 2 2 は 光 拡 依 面、 2 3 は 反射 部、 2 4 は 透 過 部 で ある。

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第1図(a)(b)はそれぞれ本発明の実施例1を示す平面図と断面図、第2図は同上の光拡散面に形成された反射部のパターンを示す平面図、第3図は同上の動作説明図、第4図(a)(b)はそれぞれ本発明の実施例2の断面図と光拡散面に形成された反射部のパターンを示す平面図、第5図は本発明

